

♥ National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans ♥



South Garland High School decorated Dallas VAMC with valentines and this balloon arch.



Congressman Sam Johnson brought valentines to Patient Roger Jones.



Congressman Jeb Hensarling shared valentine greetings with Patient Howard Keen.



Congressman Johnson with his wife, Shirley, along with Congressman Hensarling shared a wagon and basket full of valentines with clinic patients.

February 13-17, 2006



From the Director ...

National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans gives everyone a chance to let those know who have given so much for this nation that they are not forgotten. We invited local veteran service organization, elected officials, school children and other groups who visited during the week. People of all ages sent thousands of valentines to cheer our patients - they literally hung like wallpaper throughout each facility.

Betty Bolin Brown



Ms. Brown admired the historical World War II display featured as part of Salute Week activities. John Snapp of the 6th Corps Historical Association shares the display every year that includes various types of military equipment and weapons. Patients and visitors (and the director...) really enjoyed it!



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Marcus Evans was surrounded by valentine cheer at the Information Desk.



About National Salute...

The annual VA National Salute program began in 1978 when VA took over sponsorship of a program started in 1974 by No Greater Love, Inc., a humanitarian organization. VA wanted to honor hospitalized veterans and increase community awareness of VA's role in providing comprehensive medical care to the nation's veterans while encouraging Americans to visit hospitalized veterans and work as VA volunteers.

Since then, VA Voluntary Service staff plan and execute local programs of activities at VA medical centers. The traditional observance during the week of Valentine's Day is appropriate because the sentiments of caring and sharing match the Salute's purpose of expressing honor and appreciation to hospitalized veterans.

VANTHCS salutes Steve Stous and Kathy Gregory, Voluntary Service staff and volunteers, and everyone else whose efforts helped make our patients feel special. Although we don't give them valentines every day like during Salute Week, it is a spirit of honor and gratitude we should show our patients - America's heroes, every day.



Sue Potter of the American Legion Auxiliary visits with Neal Walls.



Gilbert Russell was paid a visit by DAV Auxiliary Members Katie Critz (*left*) and Jean Scott (*right*).



Every year, newspaper Columnist Ann Landers has devoted a column in January to National Salute, asking readers to send Valentine cards and letters to hospitalized veterans at their nearest VA medical centers - a tradition that carries on after Ann Landers' death with *Annie's Mailbox*.



Bonham Patient Michael Speegle received a valentine from Jeremiah Romack with the Sherman Salvation Army.



Miss El Paso Tara Dusenbury with Marvin Kennedy.



Members of Federal Women's Association visit with Janie Schoonover.



Miss El Paso with Lonnie Teal.



Miss White Settlement Christie Kibler with Jim White.



Members of the Salvation Army visit with Tom Key (right) and James Howard (left).



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